



CULTIVATING BREAKTHROUGHS FOR A HEALTHIER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM

THREE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Food system transformation requires strong research and innovation (R&I) breakthroughs that have the potential to change the entire food system. Therefore, breakthroughs targeting the food production chain, as well as the social, political, economic and environmental aspects related to both food production and consumption is essential for promoting change. Policy interventions cannot as such create R&I breakthroughs, however by revising the European and regional R&I funding systems through policy interventions, one can create a better environment for breakthroughs to happen.

FIT4FOOD2030 proposes three revisions to R&I funding systems. These recommendations are relevant for R&I policy actors, funding organisations and research institutions.



1 Inclusion of food system thinking and transformation on the R&I agenda

A research agenda that targets the entire food system and includes R&I topics that support promising designs, start-ups and grassroots alternatives, would foster the development of more R&I projects that contribute to future-proofing the food system. Additionally, projects that analyse the R&I system to identify drivers and barriers for breakthroughs are key.

2 Responsible research and innovation

Responsible research and innovation (RRI) is an inclusive approach to R&I, to ensure that diverse societal actors collaborate during the R&I process. It aims to better align both the process and outcomes of R&I, with the values, needs and expectations of the society. Feeding these insights into the R&I process in a pragmatic and realistic way can contribute to making innovations that are valued and used broadly in society. Furthermore, as RRI involves stakeholders early in the R&I process, it helps to identify the changes that are needed across the food system and the required competences of the various actors to make the innovation successful.



3 R&I funding institutions as 'innovation brokers'

To bring about changes effectively, funding institutions should be more actively involved as 'innovation brokers'. They can assist R&I projects by sharing forecasts, gaps and signalling progress and potential conflict, or by bringing about more efficient changes in the food system by broadening their scope beyond the single R&I projects. Funding institutions can take a role in developing programmes that connect several subsystems, such as policy, business economics, biology and health, in order to bring about change to the entire food system.



FIT4FOOD2030 supports the European Commission in implementing its FOOD 2030 policy framework. The consortium is a unique international collaboration between key stakeholder organisations and networks; organisations involved in the R&I agenda setting, (public/private) partnerships for R&I, experts in stakeholder engagement, food systems research and innovation, and communication.

The research underpinning these recommendations is published as a FIT4FOOD2030 publication entitled "Research and innovation policy for future-proofing the food system", which can be accessed [HERE](#).

For more information: www.fit4food2030.eu
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